Review of Electricity Act, 2003

*129 SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have decided that State Governments will have to bear the cost of providing subsidies to State Electricity Boards and to different sections of consumers from their respective budgets;

(b) whether in this regard Government are considering to have a review of Electricity Act, 2003, and

(c) if so, what other measures are being considered and by when they are likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P M. SAYEED) (a) Section 65 of the Electricity Act, 2003 provides that if a State Government wants to give subsidy to any consumer or class of consumers, it has to compensate the licensee/utility by paying the amount of subsidy in the manner as directed by the State Electricity Regulatory Commission.

(b) There is no proposal to amend the Electricity Act in this regard

(c) Does not arise.

Modernisation of Indian Army

*130. SHRI EKANATH K THAKUR Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether Indian Army propose to step up its massive modernization drive to enhance the 'Combat potential' of its soldiers;

(b) if so, whether any study to update the army with new equipment has been carried out, and

(c) by when the Indian Army is likely to be fully equipped with state-of-the-art technology?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE). (a) to (c) Modernisation of the Army is an on-going process based on imperatives of national security, analysis of threat perception and a response thereto

A holistic study for the modernization of the Army has been carried out based on prevailing and anticipated threats to the national security.